

*Pennsylvania. New Brighton Retreat*  
*Buf*  
*1869*

# CIRCULAR

OF THE

## New Brighton Retreat,

AN ASYLUM FOR THE

RECEPTION, CARE AND TREATMENT

OF

MENTAL ALIENATION, OR DISORDER,

AND OTHER

NERVOUS AND CHRONIC DISEASES.

EXCLUSIVELY FOR FEMALES.

WITH

BOARD OF OFFICERS, MANAGERS, &C.

OCTOBER, 1862.

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1862.



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*(Late Superintendent of Columbus, Ohio, Insane Institute.)*

**STEWARD.**

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# NEW BRIGHTON RETREAT,

FOR THE

CARE AND TREATMENT OF MENTAL ALIENATION,  
OR DISORDER, AND OTHER NERVOUS  
AND CHRONIC DISEASES.

EXCLUSIVELY FOR FEMALES.

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## Site of the Institution.

THE Borough of New Brighton, situated at Beaver Falls, and on the east bank of the Beaver river, two and a half miles above its junction with the placid Ohio, has ever and justly been noted for its pure water, its balmy breezes, its variegated and picturesque scenery. The streets are broad and abundantly supplied with ornamental shade trees, which with the pleasant residences, well-kept lawns, capacious gardens, and adjacent groves, impart to all a rural air and appearance, rendering the drives in town—upon the hill-tops—in the valleys—and along the borders of our rivers, always pleasant, and during the summer months the ever changing scenery peculiarly attractive and truly beautiful; so much so as to render our place a favorite resort during the



hot season, for the gay and fashionable of the surrounding cities.

The Managers of the "Retreat," after mature reflection and consideration, selected this site on account of its peculiar adaptedness and fitness for that particular class of patients they propose to treat. The Institution is located about eighty rods from the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railway, and of easy access from every point of the compass, by rail road, water and telegraph.

### Design of the Retreat.

The design of this Institution is to provide a comfortable home for an *independent class of patients*, many, very many, of whom are *denied admission* into the public asylums for the insane, by reason of the laws regulating those institutions, consequently doomed to drag out a miserable existence in the loathsome cells of a prison, "unnoticed and unsung," in common with felons, or in almshouses, where no adequate means are provided for their restoration or amelioration even, suffering more mental anguish, day by day, than pen can portray or language express.

The object of this Institution, therefore, is to open the prison doors—bind up the broken-hearted—extend the hand of fellowship to this class of suffering humanity, and bring them to the light, provide for their every want, and carefully and tenderly care for them: and if a cure is not within our grasp, we hope at least to be able, through untiring and unremit-

ting care and attention, to mitigate their sufferings, smooth the rugged pathway of their earthly sojourn, and thereby render life more bearable.

In entering upon this new field of enterprise, we feel, deeply feel, the onerous duties and responsibilities that rest upon us. Yet we hope, through well meant and well directed means and efforts, guided by that Higher Law, to demean ourselves in such a manner as not only to merit the approbation, but to secure for the Institution the material and moral aid of the good and wise of each and every community, and especially those who have been called to mourn and weep over a dear mother, daughter, or wife, who have been stricken down in the meridian of life or bloom of youth, and victimized by this *fell destroyer* of all earthly bliss and comfort.

The necessity for such an establishment in this section of country, must be obvious to every one who has taken the trouble to inform himself on this subject. No provision has ever been made in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and other Western States, for the class of patients we propose to treat. Let it not be understood, however, that our doors will be closed against recent cases from the independent class; and in this connection we would beg leave to say, that should it become the painful duty of any to commit the dear interests of wife or daughter to our charge, that they may furnish at their own expense, a nurse, or chambermaid *to accompany them*, for which a deduction will be made from the regular fee-bill.

## Management of the Institution.

The Institution will be under the control and management of the following Boards and Officers:

### A BOARD OF MORAL INSTRUCTORS,

To consist of three—to act as an advisory committee relative to the *moral training* and other matters pertaining to the *well-being* of our household.

### A BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

To consist of three—selected with a direct reference to their integrity and business capacity, who shall have a *general oversight and management of the affairs* of the Institution.

### A MEDICAL BOARD,

To consist of five—to be chosen with reference to their peculiar fitness for the post and their high medical attainments; whose duty it shall be for one or more to visit the Institution quarterly, a majority of them semi-annually, and the whole Board annually; and from time to time make such suggestions relative to the treatment and management of the patients as they may think proper and advisable.

### THE SUPERINTENDENT.

The medical superintendency is intrusted to Elijah Kendrick, M. D., former Superintendent of the Insane Asylum at Columbus, O., who brings into the field of his labor a large experience, and we unhesitatingly believe that this department will be conducted in a manner and with an ability and skill, calculated in all respects to produce the best results and give entire satisfaction to the most fastidious.



## General Remarks.

The Institution is open for the reception of all classes of the insane, without regard to the duration or curability of the disease. It is proper to state, however, that idiots or persons affected with epilepsy, are not considered suitable subjects for this asylum.

Previous to a patient being taken to the Institution, it is necessary to arrange the rate of board with the Superintendent, and to furnish her with a certificate of insanity from some respectable physician, accompanied by a request from a guardian, near relative or friend, that the individual may be received into the Institute.

The charge for board includes washing, medicines, medical attendance, &c. The prices vary from five to ten dollars per week—according to their ability to pay. Higher prices are paid by special agreement with the Superintendent, for extra attention and accommodations.

Payments are required to be made quarterly in advance, on the fifteenth of March, June, September and December. All patients thus received shall make a payment of thirteen weeks board in advance, when brought to the Retreat, and if taken away uncured, and against the advice and consent of the Physician, within that period, no part of said payment shall be refunded.

Each patient, before admission, shall be made perfectly clean, and be free from vermin, or any contagious or infectious disease.

Each patient must be provided with undergarments, shoes and stockings, shall have a flannel petticoat, two good dresses, also a cloak or other outside garment. In case the patient is so much excited as not to admit of being thus clothed, other clothing that can be kept on, that is comfortable and in sufficient quantity, with a change thereof, may be substituted. It is very desirable that extra and better apparel should be sent with those accustomed to it, that when their health is improved, and when they attend religious worship, walk or ride out, their self-respect may be preserved. In all cases the patient's best clothing should be sent; it will be carefully preserved, and only used when deemed necessary for the purposes above mentioned. Jewelry and all superfluous articles of dress, knives, &c., should be left at home, as they are liable to be lost.

A written history of the case should be sent with the patient, and if possible, some one acquainted with the individual should accompany her to the Institute, from whom minute and often essential particulars may be learned. If private attendants are deemed necessary, or desirable, they can at all times be furnished by a special arrangement with the Superintendent.

### Form of Physician's Certificate, and Questions to be Answered.

The following are the forms for Physician's certificate, for the request for admission, and for the bond:

Having on the — day of — 18 — examined — of —, aged — years, I hereby certify from my own knowledge, that she is in a state of insanity, and proper to be received into a house provided for the relief of persons of that description.

I further certify that the answers annexed to the following questions are correct, as far as I can judge.  
 — 186—. — —, *Physician*.

A thorough knowledge of the history of the cases of insanity being important to those concerned in their treatment, the friends of patients applying for admission into the Retreat, are particularly requested, with the aid of the Physician, to furnish full and explicit answers to the following questions:

1. Is the patient single or married? What has been the patient's occupation?

*Answer.*

2. What is supposed to be the cause of this attack of insanity? When and how did it first show itself?

*Answer.*

3. On what subjects, or in what way is derangement now manifested? Have there been any fixed delusions? Is the patient rational at intervals?

*Answer.*

4. What has been the duration of the present attack? Have there been one or more previous attacks, and if so, at what age? *Answer.*

5. What relations of the patient, including grandparents and their descendants, have been insane?

*Answer.*

6. Had the patient previously been subject to epilepsy, diseases of the skin, discharges or sores, or any other bodily disease, or had she received any injury of the head?

*Answer.*

7. What derangement of the general health has accompanied the mental disorder?

*Answer.*

8. Was the patient noted for any eccentricity or peculiarity of temper, habits, disposition or pursuits?

*Answer.*

9. Is the patient noisy or violent, or disposed to injure herself or others? If so, in what manner?

*Answer.*

10. Has the patient ever attempted suicide? If so, in what way? Is there now any propensity of the kind?

*Answer.*

11. Is the patient addicted to any mischievous practices, such as destroying clothing, breaking glass, furniture, &c.? What are the habits as regards eating, sleeping, and cleanliness?

*Answer.*

12. Has the patient been addicted to the use of ardent spirits, tobacco, opium or any other stimulants? *Answer.*

13. Has restraint or confinement been employed; if so, of what kind or how long continued?

*Answer.*

14. State the general course of medical and moral treatment which has been pursued, and the effects observed therefrom. *Answer*

Please mention any other circumstances which may serve to throw light on the case.

**Request.**

I, ———, request that ———, who is in a state of insanity, may be admitted as a patient into the "New Brighton Retreat" for the treatment and relief of mental disorder, &c.

—————, *Friend.*

**Bond.**

Application is hereby made for the admission of ——— as a patient into the "New Brighton Retreat" for the treatment of persons laboring under mental disorders, &c. Upon whose admission we severally engage to provide a sufficiency of suitable clothing for her use whilst there, or pay for all necessary articles of clothing furnished by the Steward; to pay to ———, Superintendent of said Institute, or to his assigns or successors in office, ——— dollars per week for ———; and not less than thirteen weeks board to be paid under any circumstances; the said charge for board to be continued until ——— shall be regularly discharged, and to make compensation for all damages done by ——— to the glass, bedding and furniture, and in case of death, all funeral expenses and all reasonable charges for extra care and attention; and to be caused to be removed when discharged; but if taken away incurable, against the advice and consent of the Superintendent, before the expiration of three calendar months, to pay board for thirteen weeks.

Witness our hands and seals, this ——— day of ———, A. D. 18—.

Witness,

—————

————— [L. S.]  
 ————— [L. S.]

The foregoing preliminaries having been complied with, an order is given by the Superintendent for the admission of the patient into the Institution.



### Concluding Remarks.

For the legalization of its operations, the careful protection of the interests of all concerned, and for the stability, efficiency, integrity, and the better organization of the Institution, a Charter is being obtained.

The few generous spirits engaged in this great cause of humanity, have been actuated by a higher, a holier motive than the meager consideration of dollars and cents. The cries and wailings of our fellow creatures, emanating from the loathsome prison cells and almshouses, calling upon our humanity and sympathy, in tears of bitterness, for emancipation, succor and support, and the present unhappy and distracted condition of our beloved country, augurs for the future a lamentable and fearful increase in the list of this much to be dreaded mental malady. Hence the necessity for all good citizens to come up to the help and relief of the needy, provide a comfortable home for, and kindly and tenderly foster and sustain this sorely tried class of our fellow-travelers, many of whom not only recognize and duly appreciate, but oftentimes pour out rivers of gratitude upon the hand that ministers the balm of hope and comfort to their lacerated bosoms.

By this enterprise a door is opened and an opportunity furnished for the philanthropic and humane throughout this broad domain, to enter this great field of humanity and beneficence, and out of their abundance to aid, by contribution, annuity, or otherwise, in the building up of a noble edifice or in-

stitution, in this, by nature, highly favored locality, the genial influences of which will be felt and acknowledged far and wide; for which, as a rich reward—a priceless boon—the grateful prayers of those who have been made the happy recipients of its fostering care, whose firesides and households have been made glad, and hearts jubilant through its instrumentality, will descend like dew-drops upon your dying pillow, and entwine, as it were, your mortal remains with a halo of light.

The question may be asked—What necessity exists for such an Institution as we have herein advocated? Are there not public Asylums? State Hospitals for the Insane? &c. There are, indeed, such institutions. But a moment's reflection will convince the candid that these do not meet the wants and necessities of the community. There are four public Insane Asylums in the State of Ohio, all of which are full to overflowing. Applications are being made daily for the admission of patients, but from necessity they are rejected. In the Northern District of Ohio alone, there are over fifteen hundred insane persons denied admission into the State Institutions. The same *pro rata* may be said of Western Pennsylvania. Besides, the laws and regulations which govern them, forbid to a great extent the admission of that class of patients we propose to receive at our Retreat. It will only be necessary to turn to the "Act to establish an Asylum for the Insane of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," section 15, to convince the intelligent of this assertion. "In order of admission, the indigent insane of this Com-

monwealth shall always have precedence of the rich; and while the finances of the State do not permit ample provisions for all cases of insanity, recent cases shall have preference over those of long standing."

State Institutions do not retain those within their walls that are pronounced incurable—our Retreat is a home for such. State Institutions do not, and legally cannot, classify their patients. Frequently those who have been raised in the most affluent manner, have to associate with and fare with the most indigent and abject; in consequence of which their mental derangement assumes a more pitiable condition: for it will be remembered that the refined and educated mind, when it has become disordered, is the most sensitive and acute of all shades or degrees of intellect. Our Retreat will in no manner cause the patient to lose her self-respect, or in any way leave the impression on the benighted mind, that it is degrading to be an inmate of our household.

In conclusion, the Managers and Officers pledge themselves to discharge, conscientiously and faithfully, each and every duty devolving upon them; and would further add, that no person or persons will be employed in or about said Institution, who does not possess great kindness of heart, and a moral character above suspicion, so that the atmosphere, within and without, shall be free from the taint of vice or immorality.

All communications or donations, &c., should be addressed to

ELIJAH KENDRICK, M. D.,

*Supt. "New Brighton Retreat,"*

New Brighton, Beaver Co., Pa.

The Institution will be open for the reception of patients, October 1st, 1862.